

I.3
9/16/05

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region V
POLLUTION REPORT

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



243061

Date: Friday, September 16, 2005
From: Tom Cook, OSC

To: David Chung, EPA
Linda Nachowicz, Superfund
William Messenger, EPA
Richard Murawski, EPA
Harry Atkinson, IDEM
Bruce Everetts, IEPA
Richard Karl, Superfund
Charles Gebien, Superfund
Afif Marouf, EPA
Sally Jansen, EPA
Ryan Groves, IDEM
Ronald Novak, Hammond Department of
Environmental Management

Subject: Intital POLREP
Calumet Container
3631 State Line Avenue, Hammond, IN
Latitude: 41.9769
Longitude: -87.5236

POLREP No.:	1	Site #:	0566
Reporting Period:	11/30/04-09/16/05	D.O. #:	
Start Date:		Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:		Response Type:	
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	Non NPL
CERCLIS ID #:	IND980500193	Incident Category:	
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	

Site Description

The Calumet Container site is located at 3631 State Line Avenue in Hammond, Lake County, Indiana. The site occupies approximately 11 acres of in a mixed industrial and residential area. Approximately 90 percent of the property lies in Indiana while the remaining 10 percent is situated in Illinois. The site is bounded to the north by 136th Street and by the Indiana Harbor Belt Railway in every other direction. Wolf Lake, an interstate and recreational fishing lake, is located approximately 100 yards north of the site. Powderhorn Lake, another recreational lake, is located approximately 60 southwest of the site. The geographic coordinates for the site are latitude 41° 38' 57" north and longitude 87° 31' 25" west.

The Calumet Container property is currently surrounded by chain-link and barbed wire fencing. Portions of this fencing have collapsed, leaving the site unrestricted. The site is covered with brush and trees. Other site features include a small wetland pond, an old building foundation, abandoned tanker trucks, tires, and scrap metal. Five underground pipelines owned by three separate companies also run through the property.

The site operated as a drum and pail reconditioning and fiber drum processing facility from the 1960s until April 21, 1982. Numerous environmental violations regarding air and water

contamination and material disposal were cited against the facility during its operational lifetime. Property inspections and investigations conducted in 1980 revealed elevated levels of phenolics, toluene, xylene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB), and heavy metals in site groundwater. On April 16, 1982 the Indiana Attorney General filed an Enforcement Action against the Calumet Container Corporation.

Five days after the Enforcement Action was filed an explosion and fire destroyed the main building at the site. U.S. EPA removed 30 cubic yards of sludge and 5,500 gallons of contaminated liquid from the site as part of a 14-day Immediate Removal Action that began on May 7, 1982. U.S. EPA requested that the property owner remediate the remainder of contamination left on the property. The property owner was unable to organize the responsible parties and U.S. EPA initiated a Removal Action.

The Removal Action began on January 9, 1984, and focused on removing hazardous containerized liquids, solids, and sludges. A heavily contaminated loading dock was dismantled and removed. The loading dock area and other areas of the site that contained visibly stained soil were excavated and backfilled with clay.

On November 15, 2001, IDEM's State Cleanup Program performed a follow-up investigation at the site. During this investigation, surface soil sample results indicated that elevated levels of metals still existed at the site.

A site assessment conducted by U.S. EPA and START in February 2002 revealed that several drums, scrap metal, tanker trucks, the old building foundation, and paint chips and residue still remained at the site. Investigative soil sample results indicated that lead, chromium, and PCBs were present in the soil above U.S. EPA Region IX PRG criteria levels. An additional site assessment conducted by U.S. EPA and START in April and May 2002 indicated that concentrations of lead, cadmium, chromium, arsenic, iron, ethylbenzene, toluene, total xylenes, and 1,2-dichloropropane were present in subsurface soil above criteria levels.

An Action Memorandum completed by U.S. EPA on November 4, 2002, requested that funds be available to complete a time-critical removal action at the site. The scope of the action is to excavate and dispose of approximately 19,250 cubic yards of contaminated soil.

U.S. EPA, ERRS, START, and IDEM completed a site walkthrough on December 6, 2004. A land survey was completed on January 7, 2005.

On December 13 and 14, 2004 and June 1, 2005, IDEM collected groundwater samples from the existing monitoring wells on the site.

In August 2005, a local resident notified U.S. EPA and IDEM that sections of the perimeter fencing around the site are down..

In September 2005, ERRS repaired the perimeter fencing.

Planned Removal Actions

ERRS plans to begin clearing all brush and debris from the site, and begin excavating the upper two feet of contaminated soil (approximately 19,250 cubic yards).

Key Issues

Contaminated soil within three feet of the underground pipelines that run through the site must be excavated by hand.

Additional information for this site can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/calcontainer/>

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$1,500,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$1,480,000.00	98.67%
RST/START	\$13,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$10,500.00	80.77%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$1,513,000.00	\$22,500.00	\$1,490,500.00	98.51%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

www.epaosc.net/CalumetContainer